



City of San Diego Public Utilities Department

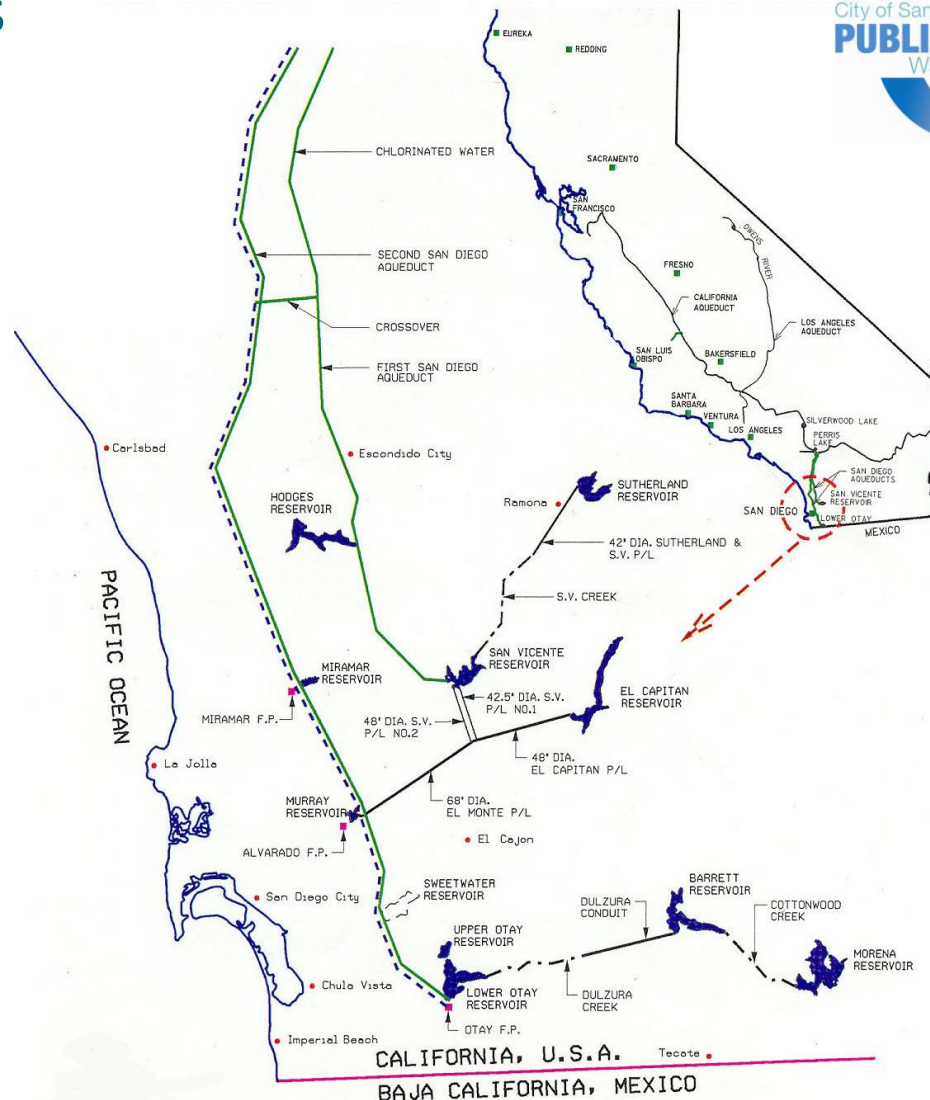
Water Quality Discussion

Natural Resources & Culture Committee

February 24, 2010

Water Supply Sources

- 85% to 90% of our water supply is imported.
- Our imported water is a blend from the Colorado River and the State Water Project.
- Remaining 10% to 15% of our water supply comes mainly from rain runoff into our local reservoirs.
- Less than 1% of our water supply comes from local groundwater sources/wells.
- City continually optimizes its treatment process for changing water quality/supply sources.



Regulatory Process

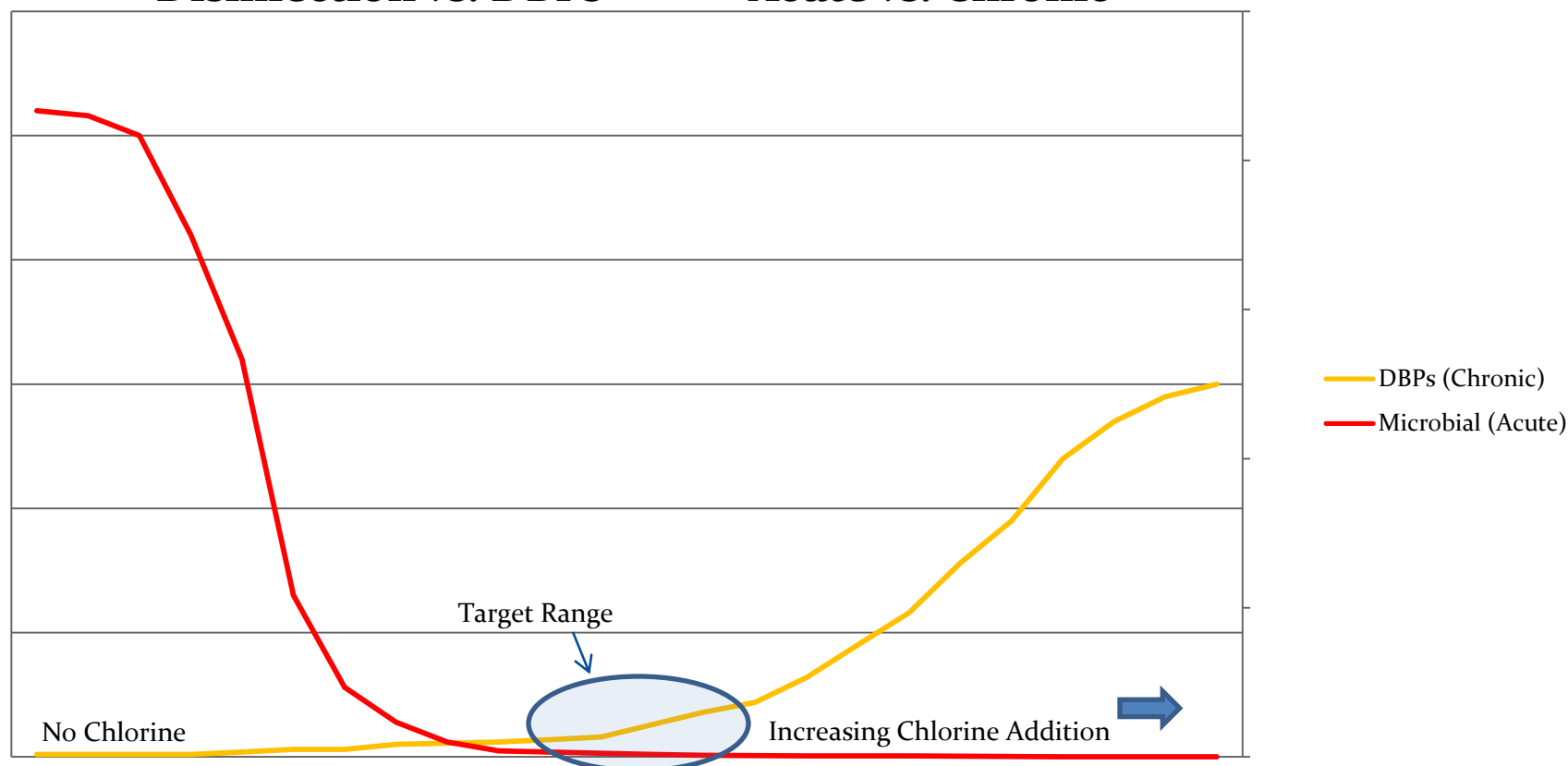
- Drinking water quality regulations are set by the federal government . The Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) regulates public drinking water.
- The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) develops the rules to implement and enforces the SDWA.
- By law, the City of San Diego must abide by the EPA's rules as administered by the State of California.
- Regulatory process incorporates many factors:
 - Balancing occurrence of constituent , constituent removal, health effects, and cost/operational ability to remove.
 - Balancing chronic vs. acute.
 - Seeking and incorporating input from the public, environmental groups, utilities, and health professionals.



Balancing Regulatory Requirements

Disinfection vs. DBPs

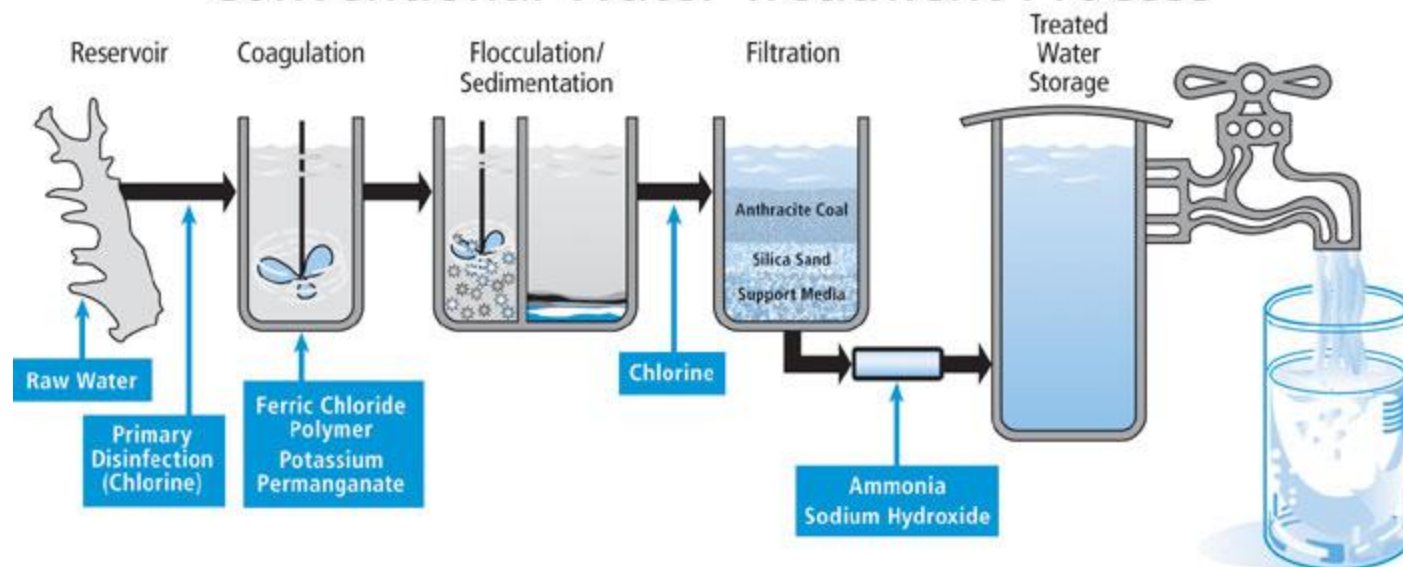
Acute vs. Chronic



Water Treatment Process

- The City's water treatment plants utilize a multiple barrier approach to produce water meeting or exceeding water quality standards.
- State-certified operators monitor both the water quality and plant operation on a 7/24 basis.

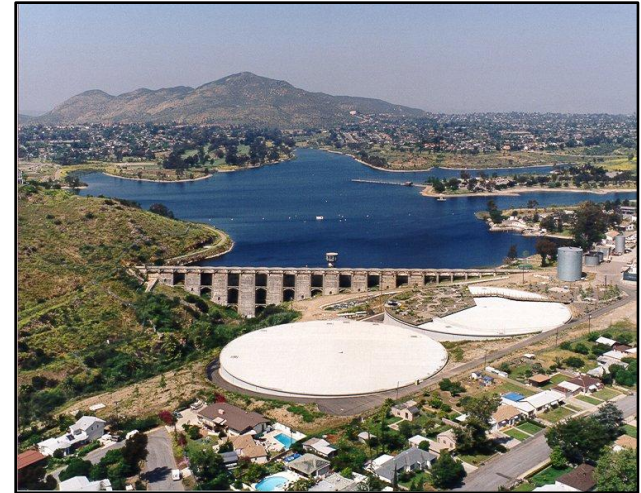
Conventional Water Treatment Process



City's Water Quality and Monitoring Program



- The City has a comprehensive water quality monitoring program which monitors for all regulatory requirements and to ensure/document compliance.
- Water quality is monitored by Water Treatment Plant Operators and the City's Water Quality Laboratory.
- The City's Water Quality Lab is certified by the California Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program for both biological and chemical analysis.
- Laboratory analysis are performed by highly trained biologist and chemist using USEPA approved methods.



City's Water Quality and Monitoring Program : Cont.



- More than 4,000 samples are collected and analyzed monthly for biological and chemical contaminants.
- Samples are analyzed for 287 different contaminants/compounds.
- Extensive monitoring occurs for the source waters, at the water treatment plants, and in the potable distribution system.



City's Water Quality and Monitoring Program : Reporting

- The City produces and submit monthly monitoring reports to the California Department of Public Health.

- Each year, the City issues a *Drinking Water Quality Report* that is mailed to all residents and the report is posted on the City's web site:

www.sandiego.gov/water/quality

- The City's potable water meets all state and federal water quality regulations/standards.



Environmental Working Group (EWG) Report



- The goal of the report as stated by EWG is to encourage the federal government to change drinking water and pollution regulations.
- Stakeholders provide a valuable function in the regulatory process. EWG exercised their right to provide input into the regulatory process.
- The majority of contaminants identified in the EWG report are Disinfection By-Products (DBPs). The DBPs result from disinfection of the water to inactivation/remove of microbial contaminants.
- Since issuing its initial report, EWG has updated the data and removed some of the erroneous data, and posted updated results on its web site.

Conclusions:

- The City is committed to the highest water quality standards.
- San Diego's water meets all state and federal drinking water regulations.
- City fully supports the EPA process and will continue to follow the agency's regulations and guidelines.

